



General Assembly

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN
THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS
DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY
IN AFRICA

Second session
13-24 September 1993
Agenda item 6

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikita F. Gladovsky (Russian Federation)

I. INTRODUCTION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, was held in Geneva from 13 to 24 September 1993. The session was convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa". At its second session, the Committee held ___ meetings (1st to ___).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Election of officers

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 14 September, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Nikita F. Glazovsky (Russian Federation) as Rapporteur of the Committee to replace Mr. Sergei N. Morozov (Russian Federation), who was unable to continue his functions on the Bureau.

3. At the same meeting, the Committee also elected by acclamation Ms. Anne De Lattre (France) as Chairman of Working Group II to replace Mr. Jacques Alliot (France), who was unable to continue his functions on the Bureau.

4. At the 3rd meeting, on 20 September 1993, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. A. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan) as Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur of Working Group I.

5. The Bureau of the Committee and its Working Groups, as elected at its organizational, first and second sessions, was thus as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Bo Kjellén (Sweden)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. René Valéry Mongbe (Benin)
Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan (India)
Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)
Rapporteur: Mr. Nikita F. Gladovsky (Russian Federation)

Working Group I

Chairman: Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif (Algeria)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Erwin Ortiz Gandarillas (Bolivia)
Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. A. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan)

Working Group II

Chairman: Ms. Anne De Lattre (France)
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Morad-Ali Ardeshiri (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur: Mr. Frederick E. G. Mallya (United Republic of Tanzania)

B. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 1st meeting, on 13 September 1993, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Election of officers
3. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa
4. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
 - (a) Special Voluntary Fund to support the participation of developing countries affected by drought and desertification, particularly the least developed countries
 - (b) Trust Fund for the negotiating process
5. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the third session
6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its second session.

C. Attendance

7. Representatives of the following States attended the session:
(to be included)
8. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented:
(to be included)
9. The following specialized agencies were represented:
(to be included)
10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented:
(to be included)
11. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:
(to be included)

D. Documentation

12. The documents before the Committee at its second session are listed in Appendix __ to the present report (to be included).

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Mandates for the Working Groups

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 September, the Committee considered the draft resolution entitled "Mandates for the Working Groups", which had been transmitted to its second session for consideration by Committee decision 1/3. In presenting the draft resolution to the Committee, the Chairman proposed that the word "definitions" be included in operative paragraph 1 (b) thereof.
14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see appendix , decision 2/1 (to be included)).
15. After the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of Brazil made a statement.

B. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

16. At its 1st and 3rd meetings, on 13 and 20 September, the Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decided to approve the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in documents A/AC.241/9/Add.2 and Add.3 (see appendix __, decision 2/2 (to be included)).

C. Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Committee

17. At the 3rd meeting, on 20 September, the Committee, bearing in mind the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/188 on the participation of observers in the work of the Committee in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly, decided to accord observer status in its work to the intergovernmental organizations listed in document A/AC.241/L.5/Add.1* and 2. (see appendix __, decision 2/3 (to be included)).

* The Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilisation of the Soil (SARCCUS), an intergovernmental organization, appears in the list of non-governmental organizations that had requested accreditation at the last session of the Committee, and should be deleted from that list, which appears in Appendix II, decision 1/1, of the report of the Committee on its first session (A/48/226).



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR
THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES
EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR
DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA
Second session
Geneva, 13-24 September 1993
Agenda item 3

ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT
AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman on the basis of
informal consultations held on draft decision A/AC.241/L.12

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992,
establishing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration
of a Convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing
serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view
to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

Recalling also decision 2/1 adopted by the Committee on 13 September
1993, in particular para 1.c thereof,

Recognizing that, in view of the global dimension and the complexity of
the problems relating to desertification and/or drought and of the particular
conditions affecting each region, including regions other than Africa, an
effective Convention should deal with the specific needs of each region,

1. Decides to recommend for adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-
eighth session, the draft resolution contained in the Annex to the present
resolution;
2. Decides also to establish at its third session a programme of work for
the final stages of the negotiation, including the elaboration of regional
instruments, in conformity with decision 2/1, and the adoption of a decision
on interim arrangements for the period leading up to the first session of the
Conference of the Parties;
3. Requests the Secretariat to continue to support the preparation of a
regional instrument on Africa and similar instruments for Asia and Latin
America and the Caribbean, as well as to take into account other affected
regions;
4. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to
report to the General Assembly on the progress of the negotiations;

*/ Re-issued for technical reasons.

Annex

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and other relevant General Assembly resolutions, as well as decisions adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular the recommendation by which the Conference invited the General Assembly to establish, under its auspices, an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recalling its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 by which it established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994,

Recognizing that desertification and/or drought affects all continents and is thus a problem of global dimension and that concrete measures have to be taken in all regions, particularly in Africa, within the framework of the Convention,

Reiterating the objective that the Convention be finalized by June 1994, and that it shall be implemented as soon as possible,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee at its first and second substantive sessions;

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning the progress of the negotiations on the Convention,

1. Urges the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to successfully complete the negotiations by June 1994, in accordance with resolution 47/188;
2. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee shall hold one session after the adoption of the Convention in order to review the situation in the interim period pending the entry into force of the Convention, in particular with regard to the implementation of provisions adapted to the specific needs of each region;
3. Further decides that the session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee after the adoption of the Convention, should be held not later than 31 January 1995; and requests the Secretary-General to make appropriate arrangements for the functioning of the ad hoc secretariat and the multidisciplinary panel of experts to service that session;
4. Also decides that the negotiating process shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the trust fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc Secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;
5. Takes note of the contributions of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other relevant international organizations dealing with desertification, drought and development to the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the conduct of its mandate and invites them to continue to provide such support;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the initial contributions made to the trust fund and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to continue their support for the fund;
7. Invites the international community, in particular the developed countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to make voluntary contributions to the INCED Secretariat and/or UNSO/UNDP and any other relevant international and regional organizations to allow them to assist countries affected by drought and/or desertification in all regions, particularly in Africa, in their preparation for the negotiating process.
8. Takes note with appreciation of the contributions made to the special voluntary fund established pursuant to its resolution 47/188 to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiation process, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to continue to contribute generously to this fund;
9. Further takes note of the arrangements made by the Secretary-General and of the welcome support of relevant or interested organizations, organs, programmes and concerned agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental, sub-regional and regional organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and invites them to continue to participate actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the future;
10. Urges Governments to continue to organize, in close collaboration with the regional commissions and national, sub-regional and regional organizations, activities to support the process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, involving the scientific and industrial communities, trade unions, the relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups;
11. Takes note of the assistance provided by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office\UNDP to the countries covered under its mandate in their preparations for and participation in the negotiating process and invites the Office to continue to support the governments concerned and to continue to mobilize resources for this purpose;
12. Further takes note of the constructive contribution of relevant non-governmental organizations to the success of the negotiating process, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and taking into account procedures used in the process of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and encourages them and particularly non-governmental organizations from developing countries, to continue to contribute to the success of the negotiating process;
13. Reiterates its request to the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to continue to submit progress reports on the negotiations to the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies;
14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as scientific and other institutions concerned;
15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session a sub-item entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" under an agenda item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".